eaty of Washington.

SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH-CABLES. The electric telegraph has become an essenad indispensible agent in the transmisof business and social messages. Its peration on land and within the limit of cular States is necessarily under the atrol of the jurisdiction within which it The lines on the high seas, howare not subject to the particular conof any one Government. In 1869 a consion was granted by the French Governest to a company which proposed to lay a from the shores of France to the piled States. At that time there was a legraphic connection between the United sed the continent of Europe through s sed the conditions of Great Britain at either end line, under the control of an associawhich had at large outlay of capital and t great risk demonstrated the practicability sintaining such means of communication cost of correspondence by this agency great-possibly not too large at the time proper remuneration for so hazardous so costly an enterprise. It was, howthe beary charge upon a means of comestion which the progress in the social commercial intercourse of the world and to be a necessity, and the obtaining French concession showed that other apital than that stready invested was ready enter into competition with assurance of dequate re ura for its outlay. Impressed the conviction that the interests not of the people of the United States, but world at large, demanded, or drusand, the multiplication of means of communication between ste continents, I was desirous that the esed connection should be made, but n provisions of this concession were seemed by me to be objectionable, particuale one which gave for a long term of years velusive right of telegraphic communiby submarine cable, between the es of France and the United States. I ald not concede that any power should the right to land a cable on the shores United States and at the same time o the United States, or to its citizens s, sa equal right to land a cable on The right to control the condi-

and conditions as Congress may In the absence of legislation pgres I was unwilling on the one vield a foreign State the right to say grantees might land on our shores denied a similar right to our people on its shores; and on the other hand reluctant to deny to the great interests the world and of civilization the facilities such communication as were proposed. I herefore withheld any resistance to the landmg of the cable on condition that the offeneve monopoly feature of the concession be shandoned, and that the right of any cable his Government to land upon French terrifavorable terms as any other company, be conout-tion renounced the exclusive privilege, ed that, understanding this relinquishment to be construed as granting the entire reciprocity and equal facilities which had been demanded, the opposition to the landing of the cable was withdrawn. The cable, under this French concession, was landed in the month of July, 1869, and has been an efficient and valuable agent of communication between this country and whatever benefit to the public might have ensued from competition between the two lines was lost, leaving only the greater facilities of an additional line and the additional tional security, together with the control of ship be established. the combined capital of the two companies, gave also greater power to prevent the fu-ture construction of other lines, and to limit the control of telegraphic communication the United States Direct Cable Company, Great Britain. As soon as this cable was rates of the then existing consolidated companies were greatly reduced. Soon, however, a break was announced in this new line, which had been reduced, were again rates appear not to be reduced by either interests are dependent. from these formerly charged by consolidated companies. There is reason to believe that large amounts of capital both at home and abroad are ready to seek profitable investment in the advancement of this useful and most civilizing means of intercourse and correspondence. They await, bowever, the assurance of the means and conditions on which they may safely be made tributary to the general good. As these cable-telegraph lines connect separate States there are questions as to their organization and control which probably can be best if not solely settled by convention between the respective States. In the absence, the subject, municipal legislation may secure many points which appear to me important, if not indispensable, for the protection of the

between several lines. First. No line should be allowed to land on the shores of the United States under the concession from another power which does not admit the right of any other line or nes formed in the United States to land and freely connect with and operate through

public against the extortions which may re-

sult from a monopoly of the right of operat-

ing cable telegrams or from a combination

its land-lines. Second. No line should be allowed to land on the shores of the United States which is not, by treaty-stipulation with the Government from whose shores it proceeds, by prohibition in it charter, or otherwise to the satisfaction of this Government, prohibited from consolidating or amalgamating with any other cable-telegraph line, or combining therewith for the purpose of regulating the first day of January, 1879," at farthest. and maintaining the cost of telegraphing.

3d. All lines should be bound to give preordence in the transmission of the official messages of the Governments of the two countries between which it may be laid. 4th. A power should be reserved to the two Governments, either conjointly or to

each, as regards the messages dispatched from its shores, to fix a limit to the charges to be demanded for the transmission of messages. I present this subject for the earnest consideration of Congress. In the mean time, and unless Congress otherwise direct, I shall not oppose the landing of any telegraph-cable which com-

vent the landing of any which does not conform to the first and second points as stated, flow out for the purchase of foreign product are iron-clads, now and which will not stipulate to concede to this Government the precedence in the of wood and drawers of water" because of transmission of its official messages and will not enter into a satisfactory arrangement with regard to its charges.

PRAUDULENT NATURALIZATION AND EXPATRIA-TION.

jects to which, in my opinion, the attention prove any measure of Congress looking straitened the Department in its ordinary of Congress should be directed are those relating to fraudulent naturalization and expatriation.

The United States, with great liberality, comply with the requirements of law. expense of bonor. The legal-tenders would force. The expenses incurred in the main-These requirements are as simple and upon have no value beyond settling present liadebts were settled.

There are a few measures which seem to four principles and policy throughout the whole sphere of national responsibility of the whole sphere of national responsibility our law have made fraudulent naturalization not infrequent, to the discretization and injury of all honest citizens, whether and injury of all honest citizens, whether and itself, say not later than the lat of January and the ward and satisfactors. The recontinually being brought to the nave quotations at later than the lat of January and settled in the act and satisfactors. The continually being brought to the nave quotations at later than the lat of January and settled in the part of the delegation, and the applicants and injury of all honest citizens, whether and the settled in the act and injury of all honest citizens, whether and itself, say not later than the lat of January and being brought to the new and the settled in the part of the delegation, and the applicants and satisfactors. The resident settled in the matter of our principal decrease of the demands that the extendition of the service for the port of the settled. The expense of which it is estimated will not exceed such that the later of a so much of the service for the port of the settled. The expense of the settled. The expense of the demands that the extendition of our principals and policy throughout the whole sphere of national responsibility which it is estimated will not exceed the extendition of the one hundred the part of the demands that the extendition of the settled. The extendition of the one hundred the part of the demands that the extendition of the one hundred the part of the demands that the extendition of the one hundred the exceed which it is estimated will not exceed the proportions and part presents for the treat of the content of the description of the one hundred the extendition of the service for the section of the service for the above quotation of the service for the part of the delegation, and the applicants and the part of the deman

Those who, if they have remained in this country long enough to astill the overpassed that period, and have returned to the country of their origin, where they reside, avoiding all duties to the United States by their absence, and claiming to be exempt from all duties to the country of their nativity and of their residence by reason of their alleged naturalization. It is due to this Government itself. and to the great mass of the naturalized citizens, who entirely, both in name and in fact. become citizens of the United States, that the high privilege of citizenship of the United States should not be held by fraud or in derogation of the laws and the good name of every honest citizen. On many occasions it has been brought to the knowledge of the Government certificates of naturalization are held. and protection or interference claimed, by parties who admit that not only they were not within the United States at the time of the pretended naturalization, but that they have never resided in the United States. In others the certificate and record of the court show on their face that the person claiming to be naturalized had not resided the required time in the United States; in without impairing Government obligations others it is admitted, upon examination, that |or crippling the due execution thereof. One the requirements of law have not been complied with. In some cases, even such certificates have been matter of purchase. These are not isolated cases, arising at rare intervals, but of common occurrence, and which are reported from all quarters of the globe. Such occurrences cannot and do not fall to reflect upon the Government and inspire all honest citizens. Such a fraud being discovered, however, there is no practicable means within the control of the Government by which the record of naturalization can be vacated; and should the certificate be taken | collected, and which give but an insignificant up, as it usually is, by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the Government to whom it may have been presented, there is nothing to prevent the person claiming to those articles which enter into manufachave been naturalized from obtaining a new certificate from the court in place of that articles goes directly to the cost of the artiwhich has been taken from bim. The evil has become so great and of such frequent paid for by the consumers. These duties not occurrence that I cannot too earnestly recommend that some effective measures be adopted act as a protection to the foreign manufacto provide a proper remedy and means for turers of the same completed articles in our laying of a cable within the juthe vacating of any record thus fraudulently own and distant markets. I will suggest, waters of the United States, to made and of punishing the guilty parties to or mention, another subject bearing upon our shores with those of any foreign the transaction. In this connection I refer the problem of how to enable the Secretary also to the question of expatriation and the of the Treasury to accumulate balances : It ins exclusively to the Government United States, under such limitaelection of pationality. The United States was foremost in upholding the right of expatriation, and was

principally instrumental in overthrowing the doctrine of perpetual allegiance. Congress natural and inherent right of all people; but while many other nations have enacted laws providing what formalities shall be necessary to work a change of allegiance the United States has enacted no provisions of law, and has in no respect marked out how and when expatriation may be accomplished attention of the Government where citizens native-born, have formally become citizens tory, and to connect with French land-lines or subjects of foreign powers, but who, and enjoy all the necessary facilities or privi- nevertheless, in the absence of any provisions incident to the use thereof upon as of legislation on this question, when involved in difficulties, or when it seems to be could. As the result thereof the company in to their interest, claim to be citizens of the United States and demand the and the representative of France was inform- intervention of a Government which they have long since abandoned, and to which for years they have rendered no service nor held themselves in any way amenable. In other cases naturalized citizens immediately after naturalization have returned to their native country; bave become engaged in business; have accepted offices or pursults inconsistent

with American citizenship, and evince no intent to return to the United States until the other continent. It soon passed under called upon to discharge some duty to the control, however, of those who had the the country where they are residing, anagement of the cable connecting Great when at once they assert their citizenship ernment to aid them in their unjust pretensions. It is but justice to all bona fide citizens that no doubt should exist on such questions, and that Congress should detersecurity in case of accident to one of them. mine by enactment of law how expatriation But these increased facilities and this addi- may be accomplished and change of citizen-

PROTECTION OF AMERICAN WOMEN.

I also invite your attention to the necessity of regulating by law the status of Amebetween the two continents to those possess- rican women who may marry foreigners, and ing the lines already laid. Within a few of defining more fully that of children born months past a cable has been laid, known as in a foreign country of American parents who may reside abroad, and also of some connecting the United States directly with further provision regulating or giving legal effect to marriages of American citizens conreported to be laid and in working order the tracted in foreign countries. The correspondence submitted herewith shows a few of the constantly-occurring questions on these points presented to the consideration cable, and immediately the rates of the other of the Government. There are few subjects to engage the attention of Congress on which raised. This cable being now repaired, the more delicate relations or more important

> ARCHIVES AND VALUABLE PAPERS PROPERLY CARED FOR.

In the month of July last the building erected for the Department of State was tion for the Signal-Service Corps. This sertaken possession of and occupied by that Department. I am happy to announce that the archives and valuable papers of the Government in the custody of that Department are newal of the appropriation for compiling the now safely deposited and properly cared for. official records of the war, etc.

REVENUE AND FINANCE. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury shows the receipts from customs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874, to have been \$163,103,833 69, and for the fiscal year ending however, of international conventions on June 30, 1875, to have been \$157,167,722.35 a decrease for the last fiscal year of \$5,936, 111.34. Receipts from internal revenue for the year ending 30th of June, 1874, were \$102,409,784.90, and for the year ending 30th of June, 1875, \$110,007,493.58; increase, \$7,

597.708.65. The report also shows a complete history of the workings of the Department for the reforms and for legislation which I concur in, but cannot comment on so fully as I should like to do if space would permit, but which I look upon as vital to the best interests of the whole people. Coming within the purview of "Treasury," I mean specie-resumption. Too much stress cannot be laid upon this question, and I hope Congress may be induced, at the earliest day practicable, to insure the completion of the act of the last Congress at its last session to It would be a great blessing if this could be consummated even at an earlier day. Nothing seems to me more certain than that a full, healthy, and permanent reaction cannot take place in favor of the industries and financial welfare of the country until we return to a measure of values recognized throughout the civilized world. While we use a currency not equivalent to this standard-the world's recognized standard-specie becomes a commodity like the products of the soil, the surplus seeking a market wherever tions, and leave the United States " hewers | Alantic coast. The navy has been wiser legislation on the subjects of finance by the nations with whom we have dealings. I am not prepared to say that I can suggest the best legislation to secure the end most heartily recommended. It will be a source of great gratification to me to be able to ap- or display, and though it has necessarily effectively toward securing resumption. Un- expenditures, and as far as the iron-clads are limited inflation would probably bring about specie-payments more speedily than any legislation looking to the redemption of the legal-tenders in coln, but it would be at the

equal to what it purports to be. The merchants, monufacturers, and tradesmen of every calling could do business on a fair margin of profit. The money to be received having an unvarying value, laborers and all classes who work for stipulated pay or salary would receive more for their income, pecause extra profit would no longer be charged by the capitalist to compensate for the risk of a downward fluctuation in the value of the currency second. That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to redeem say not to exceed two million dellars monthly of legal-tender notes by issuing in their stead a long bond bearing interest at the rate of 3.65 per cent. per annum, of denominations ranging from fifty dollars to one thousand dollars each. that This would in time reduce the legal-tender notes to a volume that could be kept affoat without demanding redemption in large sums suddenly. Third. That additional power be given to the Secretary of the Treasury to accumulate gold for final redemption either by increasing revenue, curtailing expenses, or both. It is preferable to do both ; and I recommend that a reduction of expenditures be made wherever it can be done measure for increasing the revenue, and the only one I think of is: the restoration of the duty on tea and coffee. These duties would add probably \$18,000,000 to the present amount received from imports, and would in no way increase the prices paid for these articles by the consumers. These articles are the products of countries collecting revenue from exports, and as we, the largest consumers, reduce the duties they proportionally increase them. With this addition to the revenue many duries now return for the cost of collection, might be remitted, and to the direct advantage of consumers at home. I would mention tures of all sorts. All duty paid upon such cles when manufactured here, and must be only come from the consumers at home, but is to devise some better method of verifying claims against the Government than at present exists through the Court of Claimsespecially those claims growing out of the

war. Nothing is more certain late has declared the right of expatriation to be a than that a very large percentage natural and inherent right of all people; of the amounts passed and paid are either wholly fraudulent or are far in excess of the real losses sustained. The large amount of losses proven, on good testimony, according to existing laws, by affidavits of fictitious or unscrupulous persons, to have been sustained on small farms and plantations, are by its citizens. Instances are brought to the not only far beyond the possible yield of those places for any one year, but, as every which may be established by authority of of the United States, either naturalized or one knows who has had experience in tilling the soil, and who has visited the scenes of these spoliations, are, in many instances, more than the individual claimants were ever worth, including their personal and real estate. The report of the Attorney-General, which will be submitted to Congress at an' early day, will contain a detailed history of awards made and of claims pending of the class here referred to.

MILITARY AFFAIRS. The report of the Secretary of War, accompanying this message, gives a detailed account of army operations for the year just passed, expenses for maintenance, etc., with recommendations for legislation, to which I respectfully invite your attention. To some of these I invite special attention: First. The necessity of making three hundred thousand dollars of the appropriation for the subginning of the next fiscal this provision troops at points distant from supply-production must either go without food or the existing law must be violated. It is not attended with cost to the Treasury. Second. His recommendation for the enactment of a system of annuities for the families of deceased officers by the voluntary deductions from the monthly pay of officers. This, again, is not attended with burden upon the Treasury, and would for the future elieve much distress, which every old army officer has witnessed in the past of officers dying suddenly, or being killed, leaving families without even the means of reaching their friends, if fortunate to have friends to aid them. Third. The repeal of the law abolishing mileage, and a return to the old system. Fourth. The trial with torpedoes, under the corps of engineers, and appropriations for the same. Should war ever occur between the United States and any maritime power torpedoes will be among if not the most effective and cheapest auxiliary for the defence of harbors, and also in aggressive operations, that we can have. Hence it is advisable to learn by experiment

their best construction and application as well as effect. Fifth. A permanent organizavice has now become a necessity of peace as well as war under the advancement made by the present able management. Sixth. A re-

THE NAVY. The condition of our pavy at this time is a subject of satisfaction. It does not contain, it is true, any of the powerful cruising ironclads which made so much of the maritime strength of some other nations, but neither our continental situation nor our foreign policy requires that we should have a large number of ships of this character, while the situation and the nature of our ports combine to make those of other nations little dangerous to us under any circumstances. Our navy does contain, however, a considerable number of iron-clads of the monitor class, which, last year, and contains recommendations for though not properly cruisers, are powerful rations near our own shores. Of these, all the single-turretted ones, fifteen in number. will confine myself to a few suggestions have been substantially rebuilt-their rotten hulls strengthened, and their engines and machinery thoroughly repaired-so that theyare now in the most efficient condition and ready for sea as soon as they can be manned and 1784 widows and dependent relatives and put in commission. The five double- 21,038 were pensioners of the war of 1812 turretted iron-clads belonging to our navy, by far the most powerful of our ships for bring about specie-resumption "on and after fighting purposes, are also in hand undergoing complete repairs, and could be ready for sea in periods varying from four to six months. With these completed according to the present design, and our two iron-turretted boats now ready. our iron-clad fleet will be, for the purpose of defence at home, equal to any force that can readily be brought against It. Of our wooden navy, also cruisers of various sizes to the number of about forty, including those now in commission, are in the Atlantic, and could there is a demand for it. Under our present Of these, one third are in effect new ships; system we should want none, nor would we and though some of the remainder need have any were it not that customs-dues must | considerable repair to their boilers and maplies with and assents to the points above be paid in coin, and because of the pledge chinery they all are, or can readily be made. commerated, but will feel it my duty to pre- to pay interest on the public debt in effective. This constitutes a fleet of more coin the yield of precious metals would than fifty war-ships, of which fifteen

brought to this condition by a judicious and practical application of what could be spared from the current appropriations of the last few years, and from that made to meet the possible emergency of two years ago. It has been done quietly, without proclamation concerned has added nothing to the cruising force of the navy, yet the result is not the less satisfactory, because it is to be found in a great increase of real rather than apparent volved upon it, and the preparations so far tenance of an effective naval force in all its the governmental contributions will be made as favorable terms to the emigrant as the high privilege to which he is admitted can them. They would buy nothing after their of should permit. I do not propose any addebts were settled.

tors now undergoing repairs, which must can be spared from current expenses. plemented by these, our pavy, armed with the destructive weapons of modern warfare, manned by our seamen, and in charge of our instructed officers, will present a force powerful for the home purposes of a responsible though peaceful nation.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT. The report of the Postmuster-General erewith transmitted, gives a full history of be workings of the department for the year ust past. It will be observed that the deficiency to be supplied from the general treasury increased over the amount required for the preceding year. In a country so yast in area as the United States, with large portions sparsely settled, it must be expected that this important service will be more or less a burden upon the treasury for many years to come. But there is no branch o the public service which interests the whole people more than that of cheap and rapid transmission of the mails to every inhabited part of our territory. Next to the free chool the post-office is the great educator of the people, and it may well receive the support of the General Government. The subsidy of \$150,000 per annum given to vessels of the United States for carrying he mails between New York and Rio Janeiro having ceased on the 30th day of Saptember last without direct mail facilities with the South American States. This is greatly to be reretted, and I do not hesitate to recommend he authorization of a renewal of that contract, and also that the service may be increased from monthly to semi-monthly trips. The commercial advantages to be gained by direct line of American steamers to the ment. South American States will far outweigh the expense of the service. By act of Congress approved March 3, 1875, almost all matter. hether properly mail-matter or not, may be sent, any distance through the mails in packages not exceeding four pounds in weight for the sum of sixteen cents per ound. So far as the transmission of real mailmatter goes, this would seem entirely proper, out I suggest that the law be so amended as to exclude from the mails merchandise of all descriptions, and limit this transportation to articles enumerated and which may be classed as mail-matter proper.

BLACK HILLS AND INDIAN AFFAIRS. The discovery of gold in the Black Hills, portion of the Sloux reservation, has had the effect to induce a large emigration of miners to that point. Thus far the effort to protect the treaty-rights of the Indians to | to fix the status of the innocent children the that section has been successful, but the next year will certainly witness a large increase of such emigration. The negotiations for the relinquishment of the gold-fields having failed, it will be necessary for Congress to adopt some measure to relieve the embarrassment growing out of the causes named. The Secretary of the Interior suggests that the supplies now appropriated for the sustenance of the people being no longer obligatory under the treaty of 1868, but simply gratuity, may be issued or withheld at his discretion. The condition of the Indian Territory, to which I have referred in severa of my former annual messages, remains practically unchanged. The Secretary of the Interior has taken measures to obtain a full report of the condition of that Territory, and will make it the subject of a special report at an early day. It may then be necessary to make some further recommendation in regard to legislation for the government of that Territory.

The steady growth and increase of the business of the Patent Office indicates in some measure the progress of the industrial activity of the country. The receipts of the

condition.

THE LAND OFFICE. The report of the General Land Office shows that there were 2,459,601 acres less disposed of during this than during the last year. More than one half of this decrease was in lands disposed of under the homestead and timber-culture laws. The cause of this decrease is supposed to be found in the grasshopper scourge and the droughts which prevailed so extensively in some of the frontier States and Territories during that time as to discourage and deter entries by actual settlers. The cash receipts were less by \$690,322.23 than during the preceding year. The entire surveyed area of the public domain is 630,253,094 acres, of which 26,-077,531 were surveyed during the past year, leaving 1,154,471,762 acres still unsurveyed The report of the Commissioner presents many interesting suggestions in regard to the management and disposition of the public domain, and the modification of existing laws, the apparent importance of which should insure for them the careful consideration of Congress.

The number of pensioners still continues to decrease, the highest number having been reached during the year ending June 30, 1873. During the last year 11,557 names were added to the rolls, and 12,977 were dropped therefrom, showing a net decrease of 1.420. But while the number of pensioners has decreased, the annual amount due on the pension rolls has increased \$44,733.13. This is caused by the greatly-increased average rate of pensions, which, by the liberal legislation of Congress, has increased from \$90.26 in 1872 to \$103.91 in 1875 -- to each invalid pensioner an increase in the average rate of 15 per cent, in the three years. During the year ending June 30, 1875, there were paid on account of pensions, including the expense of disbursement, \$29,683,116, being \$910,632 less than was paid the preceding year. This reduction in the of expenditures was produced by the decrease in the amount of arrearages due on allowed claims and on pensions, the rate of which was increased by the legislation of the preceding session of Congress. At the close of the last fiscal year there were on the pension-rolls 234,821 persons, of whom 210,363 were army pensioners, 105,478 being invalids, and 104,885 widows and dependent relatives; 8,420 were navy pensioners, of whom 1,636 were invalids 15,875 of whom were survivors, and 5,163 were widows. It is estimated that \$29,585, 000 will be required for the payment of pensions for the next fiscal year-an amount \$963,000 less than the estimate for the present year.

THE GEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS have been prosecuted with energy during the year, covering areas of about forty thousand square miles in the Territories of Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico, developing the agricultural and mineral resources and furnishing interesting scientific and topographi cal details of that region.

TREATMENT OF THE INDIANS. The method for the treatment of the Indians adopted at the beginning of my first term has been steadily pursued, and with satisfactory and encouraging results. It has been productive of evident improvement fu the condition of that race, and will be continued with only such modifications as further experience may indicate to be necessary.

THE CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION. The Board heretofore appointed to take barge of the articles and materials pertaining to the War, the Navy, the Treasury, the Interior, and the Post-Office Departments, and the Department of Agriculture, the Smithsonian Institute, and the Commission of Food-fishes to be contributed under the legislation of last session to the international exhibition to be held at Philadelphia during the centennial year 1876, has been diligent in the discharge of the duties which have demade with it command the assurance that one of the marked characteristics of the ex-

a voluntary contribut a voluntary contributor, it is my opin that its contribution should be of a character in quality and extent, to sustain the dignity and credit of so distinguished a contribu The advantages to the country of a creditable display are, in an international point of view. of the first importance, while an indiffer or increditable participation by the Government would be humilioting to the patriotic feelings of our people themselves. I commend the estimates of the Board for the necessary additional appropriations to the favorable consideration of Congress. The powers of Europe almost without exception many of the South American States, and even the more distant Eastern powers, have nantfested their friendly sentiments towards the United States and the interest of the world in our progress by taking steps to join with us in celebrating the centennial of the nation; and I strongly recommend that a more national importance be given to this exhibition by such legislation and by such appropriations as will insure its success. ts value in bringing to our shores innume rable nseful works of art and skill the commingling of citizens of foreign countries and our own, and the interchange of ideas and nanufactures, will far exceed any pecuniary outlay we may make.

I transmit herewith the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, together with the reports of the Commissioners, the Board of Audit, and the Board of Health of the District of Columbia, to all of which I invite vour attention. The Bureau of Agriculture has accom plished much in disseminating useful knowledge to the agriculturist, and also introducing new and useful productions adapted to our soil and climate, and is worthy of the continued encouragement of the Govern-

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION. The report of the Commissioner of Edu cation, which accompanies the report of the Secretary of the Interior, shows a gratifying progress in educational matters.

THE TEXT POLYGAMY, 199 A SOTTAGE In nearly every annual message that] have had the honor of transmitting to Congress I have called attention to the adomalous, not to say scandalous, condition of affairs existing in the Territory of Utah, and have asked for definite legislation to correct t. That polygamy should exist in a free enlightened, and Christian country, without the power to punish so fi grant a crime against decency and morality, seems preposterous. True, there is no law to sustain this unnatural vice, but what Is needed is a law to punish it as a crime, and at the same time offspring of this system, and of the possibly innocent plural wives; but as an institution polygamy should be banished from the land

THE CHINESE SCANDAL. While this is being done I invite the atten ion of Congress to another though perhaps no less an evil-the importation of Chinese women, but few of whom are brought to our shores to pursue honorable or useful occupations.

PUBLIC - LANDS. Observations while visiting the Territories of Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado during the past autumo convinced me that existing laws egulating the disposition of public lands, Governor of Louisiana had been set at rest, imber, &c., and probably the mining laws themselves, are very defective, and should regretted that for a paltry advantage it be carefully amended, and at an early day. In territory where cultivation of the soil can logg been recognized as Governor of Louisionly be followed by irrigation, and where and by the President of the United States irrigation is not practicable, the land can and by both houses, but also by the people only be used as pasturage, and this only of Louisiana and by solemn statute passed where stock can reach water to quench its by its Legislature at its extra session held thirst, cannot be governed by the same laws last April. Besides, this man Spencer bad as to entries as lands, every acre of which is an independent estate by itself.

Land must be held in larger quantities to mountain regions, which are held for entry in small quantities only and as mineral lands, The timber is the property of the United States, for the disposal of which there is now no adequate law. The settler must become a consumer of this timber whether he lives upon the plain or engages in working the House the existence of a controversy not mines, hence every man becomes either a trespasser himself or, knowingly, a patron of

My opportunities for observation were not sufficient to qualify me in recommending specific legislation on these subjects, but I two houses of Congress, sufficiently large to er this certificate was signed by the proper be divided into sub-committees, be organized Governor or not. It had been crystallized committee shall report to Congress at the as the merits of a case should be referred to next session such laws or amendments to the Committee on Elections. laws as it may deem necessary to secure the best interests of the Government and the

much for their development. I am sure the citizens occupying the territory described do not wish to be trespassers, nor will they be if legal ways are provided for them to become owners of these actual necessities of their position.

THE CONCLUSION. As this will be the last annual message will repeat or recapitulate the questions the rules of common decency as well, which I deem of vital importance, which may be legislated upon and settled at this ession:

First. That the States shall be required to referred to the committee. afford the opportunity of a good common-school education to every child within their limits.

Second. No sectarian tenets shall ever be taught in any school supported in whole or in part by the State, nation, or by the pro- Mr. LAMAR : The gentleman simply un make education compulsory as far as to the House has remitted to the House (whethdeprive all persons who cannot read and er or not it involves the other question as to write from becoming voters after the year the validity of the gubernatorial incumbent grounds of illiteracy who may be voters at to be decided informally on the mere seating the time this amendment takes effect.

separate and distinct, but each free within turely decided. their proper spheres, and that all church property shall bear its own proportion of matter of history that last year, in what was Fourth. Drive out licensed immorality,

women for illegitimate purposes. To recur again to the centennial year, it would seem as though now, as we are about the very Nestor of the Democratic party, to begin the second century of our national | had not voted with the Bepublicans in order existence, would be a most fitting time for avowedly that it might be a final settlement. these reforms.

speedy return to a sound currency-such as the other side of that agreement and to rewill command the respect of the world. Believing that these views will commend themselves to the great majority of the rightthinking and patriotic citizens of the United States, I sabmit the rest to Congress. U. S. GRANT.

Executive Mansion, December 7, 1875. Comments upon the Message in Wash ington-Applications for Office.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, December 7-Midnigh There is not much comment concerning the message to-night. It is remarked as a document of some ability, and the portion of it relating to Cuba is looked upon by all par-

SID FOR THE TRIED TERM, The avalanche of applications for positions under the House of Representatives continues with unabated zeal. There are at least fifty applicants for every place, and at the ntmost there are no more than one or two to each demand. The Virginia delegation is in a complete state of slege, and it will be a complete state of slege.

who is virtually under indiciment, would present the message to Congress, but this was not the case. General Babcock left here to-day for Chicago, where the faquiry will be conducted. His friends assert that a complete explanation will be given of the telegrams that have forced him into such a bad scraps. At last some one has been found to accept the APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN COMMISSIONER

the appointment having fallen upon another Smith-Mr. John Q. Smith, ex-member of Congress from Obio.

In the House of Representatives, at Washington, on Monday-

Mr. WOOD, of New York, objected to Mr. Morey, of Louisiana, and Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, objected to Mr. Goode, of Virginia Therefore these gentlemen were not per mitted to qualify. Subsequently Mr. Wood offered a resolution referring the credentials of Morey and Spencer to the Committee on Elections with instructions to report which of them is entitled to the sest. He said that he did not propose to raise the que who was legal Governor of Louisiana. was not pertinent to this inquiry to determine that question, the sole and exclusiodestion being as to what form of credentists he respective claimants presented.

Mr. BLAINE, of Maine, declared that there was no more official ground for speaking of John McEnery as Governor of Louisiana than there was for speaking of the gentleman (Mr. Wood) as Governor of New York. No department of the Government had ever recognized McEnery; and the House last session, by a very large vote to which many gentlemen on the Democrat side of the House were consenting and many of them anxious that the resolution should pass, had solemnly recognized Kellogg as Governor of Louisians. And for the gentleman from New York to make a statement that the governorship of Louisiana was still a matter of doubt, or was still in suspense, was to place the House in a wrong position. He thought that the clerk would have been perfectly justified in tearing up as waste paper the credentials signed by McEnery. He trusted that the gentleman from New York did not wish to open the whole Louisiana controversy on this ques-

Mr. WOOD replied that the papers in the case of all the members from Louisiana were themselves a sufficient answer for the gentleas to who was the Governor of Louisiana, why was it that all the members of that State had deemed it necessary to obtain the certificates of McEnery? They had alldeemed it important to come here clothed with certificates from each of these so-called Governors. He did not propose to raise in was not Governor of Louisiana. The question to be determined in the first place whether Mr. Morey presented credentials that entitled him to a seat on this floor.

Mr. WHEELER, of New York, said he had trusted that the question as to who was at least until the next general election, and should be again raised. Not only had Kelabsolutely foreclosed himself by having made himself a contestant.

Mr. FRYE, of Maine: Is there on record justify the expense of conducting water upon since the election held in 1879 in the State of tractor on the river. office are in excess of its expenditures, and it to make it fruitful or to justify utilizing it Louisiana a single official act of McEnery the office generally is in a prosperous and as pasturage. The timber in most of the except this one of signing those certificates? Mr. WHEELER Of New York: NOTOR Mr. WOOD remarked that the question settled last session had been confined entirely to the election of the Legislature, and not

> to the election of Governor. Mr. LAMAR, of Mississippi, said that the clerk of the House had made known to the only with reference to the merits of the question, but with reference to the prima facie right to a seat in the House. The House was in possession of the fact that there was such a controversy. It might be a very simple and a very intelligible question, do recommend that a joint committee of the but still it was a question of law as to whetho visit all the mining States and Territories into a regular parliamentary law that a quesduring the coming summer; and that the tion involving the prima facie right as well

> Mr. BLAINE asked Mr. Lamar whether in the history of the House he knew of any people of these Territories, who are doing so case where the credentials or pseudo credentials of a member, signed by a pretended Governor, who had never been recognized as the Governor by any department of the United States or by his own State, had been referred to a committee. He trusted that his friend (Mr. Lamir), with his well-known moderation, would restrain his party from placing on the record such an outrage not which I shall have the honor of transmitting only on State rights, of which be (Mr. Lamar) to Congress before my successor is chosen, I was such an exemplar and advocate, but on

Mr. LAMAR remarked that the question whether one of these was the pretended Governor or not was the very question to be Mr. BLAINE: Then I understand the

gentleman to mean that this is the formal opening of the whole Louisjana case, and not merely a question as to the seat of the mem-

ceeds of any tax levied upon any community; derslands that a question which the clerk of 1890; disfranchising none, however, on of Lauisiana) is a question which ought not of a member, but ought to be formally re-Third. Declare Church and State forever ferred to a committee, and gravely and ma-Mr. BLAINE asked whether it was not a

known as the Louisiana adjustment, it was perfectly understood that the vote of the such as polygamy and the importation of House declaring Kellogg to be Governor was a final settlement, and whether the venerable gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Stephens), Did his honorable friend (Mr. Lamar) come Fifth. Enact such laws as will insure a here now to head a movement to trample on

open the whole case? Mr. LAMAR admitted that there had be a compromise last session, and that that compromise did acknowledge Kellogg as the acting Governor of Louislana. He that the gentleman from New York (Mr. Wood) would, acting on the suggestion of Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, modify his resolution by omitting the preamble and merely referring the matter to the Committee on Elections with instructions to report on the

prima facie case.
Mr. WOOD modified his resolution accord-

The clerk of the House, with the permission of the House, made the following statement: The controlling fact which, in my ties as good doctrine and as setting forth the proper position for the United States. This is so regarded by Democrats as well as Republicans.

The remarks on the school question, religion, taxation of church property, etc., is regarded as a very decided ment: The controlling fact which, in my judgment, required me to accept the Kellogg certificates was that prior to the making up of the roll on the 4th of March last there had been a recognition by the House of Representatives of William Pitt Kellogg as Governor of Louislans, and at that time he was the defacto Governor of the State. In view of his recognition by the executive branch of the Government, by all the departments. of his recognition by the executive orthers of the Government, by all the departments of the Government, and by that part of the legislative branch of the Government to which the cierk is responsible, I felt myself absolutely concluded, and therefore I massive the names returned by Governor Kellogy. without any reference whatever to the pa

of Virginia, was next taken up, and a short discussion be was sween in as a short discussion be was sworn in as a men ber, taking the modified outb.

Letter from Peters leucs of the Richmond Dis

E. B. Boto was elected a n cond Ward to succeed Mr. T. L. J resignation, which was accepted, I An ordinance for funding the ont isbilities of the city into bonds of the mounting to \$100,000 was pas are to run for twenty years, and will ischarge of the bonds at their e of no little trouble and jab providing for the bills payable of the city and

wenty-three, the same to be co three officers. At the same time it redu the pay of the privates from sixty-five dellars per month to fity dollars. The pay of the officers of the force is subject to a sed petion of five per cent, in accordance with the dation of the Committee on Reonepartment for the present volunteer organ zition was adopted. The suggestion made at the close of the Council's first year

of service in the annual report of the shief engineer, Major W. H. Jarvis. All the present companies are therefore dishanded. and the organization of the new paid department is assigned to three fire commission consisting of the following members of the Council: J. W. Goodwyn, J. T. Parham, and J. Andrew White. The object of the change is to render the department as efficient as possible, and as little expensive, as it is man; for if there was no possible question claimed that eight bundred and fifty dollars can be saved every year by the substitution. The following proxies on the part of the city were appointed to represent the stock of the same in the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad Company to be held at Norfolk on the 23d instant; Hop. W. F. C. this inquiry the question as to who was or Gregory (mayor, chairman of the delegation! ex officio), Messrs. J. W. Goodwyn, J. A.

White, B. C. Scott, and G. R. Eaves. Messrs. R. T. Meade and W. D. Barkley were elected members of the Board of Overseers of the Poor.

Rev. Dr. James A. Duncan, who has been in attendance on the North Carolina Conference, arrived in this city to-day on his way homeward.

The bids which Colonel Craighill, the engineer in charge of the Appomattor improvemente, has lately advertised in the Government papers is believed to have reference. to the widening and deepening of the Puddledock cut, which hardly admits of the safe and easy passage of heavier craft. The dredge Rappahannock, of Mr. Ferris's feet, arrived to-day from Crisfield, and will at once relaforce the operations of that con-

Part of the delegation from this city to the Young Men's Christian Associations destination. The Circuit Court was in session to-day

and the important case of Venable vs. the United States Government was called, Colonel W. P. Burwell, for the plaintiff, was present; but owing to the absence of Mr. L. L. Lewis, attorney for the defendant, the case was again postponed. A dreary rain has been descending all day ROBIN ADAIR. long.

ment mDEAFHS. Heading Designed Died, on the 7th instant, at twenty minutes paid 11 o'clock, at his residence, on Second street be ween Duvat and Buker streets, PHILIP STARKE aged fity-five years.

The funeral will take place from Ebeness rchurch
THURSDAY at 2 o'clock P. M. Friends and soquaintainces are respectfully invited to attend without further notice.

UNION STATION CHURCH.-A hurch-conference will be held at this church THIS EVENING at 7% o'clock, Every member is arged to attend, as business of importance will be trans-

AMUSEMENTS of pull suit RICHMOND TREATRE. TYPE KATE FISHER! and her celebrated horse, WONDER, will positively:
appear at the Theatre
THIS (WEDNESDAY) EVENING.

MAZEPPA Hon adl to bosto ".gristing" THURSDAY EVENING, tedad berrench BPF dollar soul god will be presented, in attiones Box-sheet at Wyatt's. 920 Main street. de 8-11

THE EXHIBITION OF THE GOSPEL.

TABLEAUX advertised for last night (7th), the Clay-Street Methodist Episcopal church, owing to the inclemency of the weather has been ostpourd to TUE-DAY NIGHT NEXT, 14th number to such the property of the control o Thekers sold for the 7th will be good for the 14th-de 5-1t* A T THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB-HOUSE, corner Twenty-eighth and Franklin streets, for the benefit of St. Patrick's Sunday

or "GEORGE," ILLUSIONIST, will give one of his interesting exhibitions of a if-hand and legerdensin, attended with musi-WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 6th Tickets will be for sale.

DICHMOND THEATRE.

SELECT ENTERTAINMENTS

at the RICHMOND THEATRE. on FRIDAY NVENING, December 10th, and SATUEDAY MATINEE at 2 o'clock P. M. December 11th, on which occasion they will be assisted by PROFESSOR KESSGIGH'S FULL OSCHESTRA and twenty PROFESSIONALS and AMATEURS of this site. KIDMORE AND MULLIGAN GUARDS will be produced for the first time in this city, is roducing the laughable farce THE TARGET PHACTICE.

DEOFESSOR M. V. B. FKANCK